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U.S. Passport Name Change: Tips On How To Execute It Successfully

If your name has been legally changed, you are going to need a [United States passport name change](#) as well. There are different procedures for this depending on your particular situation, such as how old your prior passport is. Depending on a several factors, there may be a fee involved and you may have to make your application in person.

If the passport you currently hold was issued within the last 12 months, you can have the name changed free of charge as long as you can show legal proof of the change. In this case, you need to mail the application, current passport, and an original or certified copy of the court order or marriage certificate documenting the change of name. You will also need to supply two recent photos which are less than 6 months old.

If the passport you currently hold was acquired more than a year ago, you will need a different application form. This can also be mailed in if you have the legally accepted proof of your name change. However, in this scenario, you will also have to send in a fee along with the application, current passport, proof of name change and photos.

If you cannot show legal proof of your name change, you will need to go to a passport agency in person. In this case, you are applying as if for a brand new passport. You will need to show at least three types of public records that show your birth date and birthplace as well as your new name. These records must show that you have been using the name for no less than five years.

Children who are less than 16 years of age must also apply in person for their passports and provide the same documents. They must be accompanied by their parents or guardians as well who will need to show legal proof of their relationship. The general requirements for passports for minors should be reviewed so that you have all the necessary documentation when you arrive at the agency.

Receiving your new passport can take four to six weeks or, at times, as many as ten. If you have to have it before then, you may want to have your [passport application forms](#) expedited. If you choose to do this, you will need to submit an extra fee for the rush service. It is possible to request this with any application for a passport.

Even when a passport is expedited, it can still take 2 to 3 weeks to get to you. If you are in an emergency situation in which you need the revised passport sooner, you may want to contact a passport expediting company to speed up the process.

If you are mailing your application for a [passport name change](#), make sure that all your documentation is packaged securely. It is also best if you send it so that it can be traced. Rather than waiting until you have travel plans, do yourself a favor and send in the passport application as soon as you actually change your name.

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